inter-State characteristics and 50 per cent for projects of a particular State. The criterion adopted are as under:--

(i) Inter-State Roads/Bridges necessary for ensuring through communication;

(ii) Roads/Bridges required for opening up new areas to which railway facilities cannot be provided in the near future.

(iii) Roads/Bridges which can contribute materially to rapid economic development, e.g. in hilly areas and places having mineral resources for exploitation.

(iv) Roads or bridges connecting National Highways.

Proposals for assistance are sanctioned on the basis of detailed estimates.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Hardware requirements of the Armed Forces

*308. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major military hardware requirements for the armed forces on which the country continues to be dependent on imports;

(b) the estimated annual expenditure being incurred by Government on the imports of military hardware;

(c) the steps taken by Government so far the indigenisation of the military hardware and the achievement in removing foreign dependency; and

(d) what strategy has been formulated by Government to step up the indigenisation of the key areas of military hardware requirements and the period by which self sufficiency in these areas is to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) India continuces to import systems and equipment from abroad for the Navy, Air Force and Army including aircraft, ships, submarines and their sub-systems whose production in India is not feasible or viable. The annual expenditure on imports includes debt repayment for previoussly purchased equipment from different sources.

(c) and (d) At ten-year plan for self-reliance in Defence Systems has been evolved to increas the ratio of expenditure on defence systems procured from indigenous sources to the total expenditure on acquisitions in a particular year from the present level of 30 percent to 70 percent by the year 2005. A 'Self-reliance Implementation Council' under the chairmanship of Scientific Adviser to RM has been constituted for the purpose.

A three-pronged thrust for achieving self-reliance is envisaged by (i) sustaining the existing defence systems through indigenisation of spares, (ii) upgrading existing weapon systems, (iii) progressive induction of more indigenous defence systems and reduce the imports of major systems.

National Sericulture Projects

*309. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have selected National Sericulture Projects in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features alongwith details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the amount of financial assistance received by Government from different international agencies and funds allocated to the States in the country, Stae-wise; and